

MAYOR'S MESSAGE – December 2017

Franklin D. Roosevelt once said, “Nobody will ever deprive the American people of the right to vote except the American people themselves, and the only way they could do this is by not voting.” As I pondered the returns of the recent municipal elections in Salt Lake County, I was interested in the turnout of voters in Murray City compared to past races and with city-wide races in other municipalities.

At the time of the election, there were 24,299 registered voters in Murray. As of November 17, the number of ballots counted was 11,260, or 46.3 percent (the results were not official until November 21 and numbers may have changed slightly). While it’s somewhat disheartening that less than half of the registered voters exercised their right to vote, it’s also somewhat encouraging when compared to previous years. In the 2013 election, after one candidate withdrew leaving just one name on the ballot for mayor, only 17.2 percent of the registered voters cast their ballot. The prior mayoral race in 2009 had 7403 voters, which was a mere 27.3 percent. So in comparison, the voter turnout for this election is much improved.

By comparing how Murray voters stacked up against the rest of the municipal voters in our county this election, here’s what I learned. Of the 15 cities with city-wide races, Murray ranked 6th in voter turnout. The highest turnout was 68.1 percent and the lowest was 25 percent. Only four cities were at 50 percent or higher.

Before the 2015 election, the city council voted to join other municipalities in Salt Lake County in implementing the vote by mail program for all registered voters. A quick review of pre-2015 and post-2015 data indicated that vote by mail has been successful in increasing voter turnout. Nevertheless, regardless of voting method, we have been given the privilege and right to cast our vote for the leaders of our city, state and country. I have been encouraged by not only the increase in voter numbers, but in the increase of voters who are striving to be informed about the candidates.

I am tremendously grateful and humbled by the voters of Murray who have given me the opportunity to serve as mayor for the next four years. I pledge to work hard and to do what I believe to be the best for our magnificent city.

On an entirely different subject, as we are in the heart of the holiday season, I hope you will take the time to enjoy the season however you choose to celebrate. As you do, may you take the time to greet your neighbors, and be mindful of those who are less fortunate and could use a helping hand.

I wish each and every one of you a very happy holiday season, and the best for the New Year!

Sincerely,

D. Blair Camp
Murray City Mayor